



# MEMORANDUM

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To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Montré Freeman, City Manager  
J. Phillip Webster, Interim Chief of Police

Date: February 24, 2023

Subject: Consideration - Donation of "Hey Sweetie" Boat to Local 501C3 Non-Profit Organization (Sea Scouts USA)

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## ***BACKGROUND:***

On occasion, the Elizabeth City Police Department has donated surplus equipment and other items to neighboring agencies and/or local non-profit organizations, in an effort to assist our law enforcement and community partners with acquiring equipment through cost effective means.

Elizabeth City recently acquired ownership of a boat that was abandoned at Mariners' Wharf for a period of approximately two years. The title of the boat was put in the City of Elizabeth City's name after the official legal process was completed. The Department reached out to the local Sea Scout organization to see if they could utilize the boat in their program. Sea Scouts USA is a 501C3 non-profit organization whose mission is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law through maritime skills and adventures." According to their official website, for over 100 years, Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved members' boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor, social, service experiences, and knowledge of maritime heritage.

Staff believes that the donation of this boat to the Sea Scouts would be not only a benefit to this organization, which promotes future leaders, but would also be of benefit to the City of Elizabeth City as we would not have to move forward with ensuring the boat or take on further liability regarding this vessel. The local Sea Scouts group, which is a subset of Boy Scouts of America, has a desire to make improvements to the boat, and to utilize it in a positive and safe way with their program activities, which are in service to the community. Staff sees it as a "win-win" for all parties.

Staff requested that this matter be discussed/given consideration and if agreed upon, that the necessary steps are taken to move forward with the donation process. As a result, during the February 13<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, approval was given to move

forward with the process of donating this boat to the Sea Scouts organization. The boat in this case is a 32' Irwin Citation with Rhode Island registration 9735M and hull number XYM32204L586. The boat is named, "Hey Sweetie."

***ANALYSIS:***

North Carolina General Statute §160A-280 (Donations of personal property to other governmental units) allows for the donation of property by local government to donate property to non-profit organizations. The statute reads in full, (a) A city may donate to another governmental unit within the United States, a sister city, or a nonprofit organization incorporated by (i) the United States, (ii) the District of Columbia, or (iii) one of the United States, any personal property, including supplies, materials, and equipment, that the governing board deems to be surplus, obsolete, or unused. The governing board of the city shall post a public notice at least five days prior to the adoption of a resolution approving the donation. The resolution shall be adopted prior to making any donation of surplus, obsolete, or unused personal property. For purposes of this section a sister city is a city in a nation other than the United States that has entered into a formal, written agreement or memorandum of understanding with the donor city for the purposes of establishing a long term partnership to promote communication, understanding, and goodwill between peoples and to develop mutually beneficial activities, programs, and ideas. The agreement or memorandum of understanding establishing the sister city relationship shall be signed by the mayors or chief elective officer of both the donor and recipient cities."

After discussing this matter, City Council gave approval to give public notice regarding the conveyance of City-owned property ("Hey Sweetie" vessel) to the local Sea Scouts group. The notice was published by the City Clerk on February 14, 2023 in accordance with G.S. 160A-280; and subsequently ran for a period of five days. As of February 21, 2023, there were no inquiries made regarding this public notice.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

By motion, approve the donation of boat ("Hey Sweetie", a 32' Irwin Citation with Rhode Island registration 9735M and hull number XYM32204L586) to the local Sea Scout organization in benefit to this group and the community.